



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior


Superintendent's Compendium
Of Designations, Closures, Permit
Requirements and Other Restrictions
Imposed Under Discretionary Authority.

FIRE ISLAND
NATIONAL SEASHORE

Fire Island NS
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Approved:


K. Christopher Soller Date
Superintendent

In accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations ("36 CFR"), Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, authorized by Title 16 United States Code, Section 3, the following provisions apply to all lands and waters administered by the National Park Service, within the boundaries of Fire Island National Seashore. Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7.

Written determinations, which explain the reasoning behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, as required by Title 36 CFR Section 1.5(c), appear in this document identified by italicized print.

I. 36 CFR § 1.5 – VISITING HOURS, PUBLIC USE LIMITS, CLOSURES, AND AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR SPECIFIC USE OR ACTIVITIES

(a)(1) The following visiting hours and public use limits are established for all or for the listed portions of the park, and the following closures are established for all or a portion of the park to all public use or to a certain use or activity:

Visiting Hours:

- The William Floyd Estate is open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from Memorial Day weekend through November 15 from 9:00am to 5:00pm. The Estate is open on the following Federal holidays: Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Columbus Day, and Veteran's Day. The Estate may be open on Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays between November 16 and Memorial Day as weather and staffing allows and for special events or programs.
- The Fire Island Wilderness Visitor Center is open from 9:00am to 4:00pm daily, and is closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Visitor Center hours may be expanded based on available staffing between July 1 and September 3.
- The Park Headquarters Building at 120 Laurel Street in Patchogue, NY is open for business year-round from 9:00am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. The building is closed all Federal holidays.
- The Watch Hill Visitors Center is open weekends from May 19 through October 8, and daily from June 30 through September 3, from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Visitor Center hours may be expanded or shortened based on the availability of ferries to the area, to close no later than 6:30pm.
- The Sailors Haven Visitor Center is open weekends from May 19 through October 8, and daily from June 30 through September 3, from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Visitor Center hours may

be expanded or shortened based on the availability of ferries to the area, to close no later than 6:30pm. From May 14 through June 29, and from October 9 through October 28, the Visitor Center will be open only as staffing permits to accommodate visiting school groups.

- The Patchogue Ferry Terminal is open weekends from May 19 through June 24, and daily from June 30 through September 3 to accommodate regularly-scheduled ferry trips. The Terminal will be open weekends and Columbus Day between September 4 and October 8. The parking lot will be locked for the evening approximately 20 minutes after the arrival of the last ferry.
- The Fire Island Light Station will be open daily from 9:30am to 5:00pm from April 1 through June 30. From July 1 through Labor Day, the Light Station will be open daily from 9:30am to 5:30pm. From Labor Day to December 15, the Light Station will be open daily from 9:30am to 5:00pm or as posted. From December 16 through March 31, the Light Station will be open 12:00pm to 4:00pm on weekends and Federal holidays, and weekdays by appointment and weather permitting. The Light Station will be closed Christmas Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Easter Sunday.

Public Use Limits:

- For camping use limits and regulations, see "Camping," §2.10, below.
- The following docks have a public use limit of 14 consecutive days in a 21 day period:
 - Watch Hill Marina
 - Sailors Haven Marina
 - Old Inlet Dock
 - *Fire Island National Seashore marinas are desirable vacation facilities. Time restrictions promote a healthy and equitable turnover of park visitors by ensuring that no vessels occupy a marina slip for the duration of the summer.*
- Vessels may not anchor in the Great South Bay within Park boundaries for more than 14 days in a 21 day period.
 - *Fire Island National Seashore provides desirable anchorages for visitors. Time restrictions promote a healthy and equitable turnover of park visitors.*
- Entering the Manor House on the William Floyd Estate is prohibited except while on a guided tour or with permission from a National Park Service employee. Tours are limited to a maximum of 12 visitors.
 - *This designation is intended to protect the structural integrity of the Manor House and protect the artifacts therein, as well as visitor safety in the event the house should need to be evacuated.*
- The Superintendent may close all or portions of the park during periods of inclement weather, or based on forecasts of inclement weather. Closures will be identified by posting signs, maps, media notifications, and/or barriers and gates as appropriate.
 - *Areas of new construction, reconstruction or rehabilitation may be closed to visitors for safety reasons and to avoid unreasonable conflict with authorized work. Roads and other facilities may be closed during periods of inclement weather or periods of other hazardous conditions in order to ensure public safety.*

- Vessels may not dock at the Barrett Beach/ Talisman Dock for more than 15 minutes in order to load or unload.
 - *A time limit allows people to load and unload without blocking the dock for an unnecessary amount of time.*
- With the exception of administrative use by authorized agencies, vessels may only use the Lighthouse Annex dock by special use permit or commercial use authorization.
- Operating a motor vehicle is prohibited on the 6.5 mile stretch of ocean beach from the western boundary of Smith Point County Park to Watch Hill from March 15 through Labor Day each year, with the exception of approved law enforcement and emergency response vehicles, or with written authorization from the Superintendent.
 - *This stretch of beach provides important habitat for shore birds, including threatened and endangered species. Off road vehicles are a risk to these birds, so this portion of beach is closed seasonally to allow them to nest.*
- Operating a motor vehicle is prohibited on the 0.9 mile stretch of ocean beach between the Oakleyville Dune Crossing and the Sailors Haven east dune crossing between March 15 and September 7, with the exception of approved law enforcement and emergency response vehicles, or with written authorization from the Superintendent.
 - *During the peak visitor season, this area of beach is utilized by thousands of beachgoers on a daily basis. In addition, this beach is a major area for shorebirds and threatened and endangered species. A seasonal closure allows for compatible recreational use and increases visitor safety by routing vehicles through the interior road while protecting wildlife during key times of year. Consequently, by routing the vehicles on the beach during non-peak visiting seasons, the impact to Burma Road will be reduced.*
- Operating a motor vehicle is prohibited on the beach between the Kismet dune crossing and the westernmost boundary of the Seashore adjacent to Robert Moses State Park, with the exception of law enforcement and emergency response vehicles, or with written authorization from the Superintendent.
 - *In an effort to regulate federal over-sand vehicle permit holders, all vehicle traffic is diverted from the beach to pass through the western most check point of the Seashore. There is no practical need for vehicles to access the beach before reaching the Kismet vehicle cut. During the peak visitor season, this area of beach is utilized by thousands of beachgoers on a daily basis. In addition, this closure also offers increased protection to shorebirds and threatened and endangered species in the area.*
- Areas of the Seashore may be closed during shorebird nesting seasons, or to protect threatened/ endangered species or other species of concern. Such closures will be posted with signs and/or will be symbolically fenced (string and pole fencing with attached signs). These areas are closed to pedestrians, vehicles, kites, and pets.
- Pets are prohibited on all federally-owned oceanfront National Seashore beaches and within the boundaries of the Fire Island Wilderness from March 15 through Labor Day. National Seashore beaches are defined as beaches owned or hereafter acquired by the United States within the authorized boundaries of the Fire Island National Seashore, from the toe of the dune to the water's edge.
 - *Ground nesting, staging, and roosting terns and shorebirds are extremely vulnerable to disturbance and predation by pets. Pets may chase, harass*

and kill nesting shorebirds, their eggs and chicks, as well as disturb roosting and staging shorebirds. Closing the Seashore to pets allows for shorebirds and other migratory birds to accumulate the energy reserves needed for migration, and allows for undisturbed nesting periods.

- Entering the primary dune area from five feet south of the toe of the dune to five feet north of the north side of the dune is prohibited, except for on constructed wooden walkways and designated dune crossings. The following locations are designated as posted for vehicle dune crossings:

- Smith Point
- Watch Hill
- Blue Point Beach
- Barrett Beach
- Fire Island Pines east
- Sailors Haven (2 crossings)
- Oakleyville
- Corneille Estates
- Kismet Firehouse

Pedestrian dune crossing are found in other areas as identified by boardwalks constructed over the top of the dune, or natural breaks that allow easy pedestrian access across the dune line between Watch Hill and the Smith Point nature trail dune crossing.

- *Dunes provide protection and stability for natural Island communities. By providing established dune crossings, the integrity of the dune is maintained, whereas foot traffic in the dunes destroys the vegetation that holds the dunes together.*

(a)(2) The following areas have been designated for a specific use or activity, under the conditions and/or restrictions as noted:

- Swimming is prohibited in and around all National Park Service marinas, in designated boat channels, and within 25 feet of any breakwater or pilings. Swimming is authorized at lifeguarded beaches as indicated by the placement of signs and flags at the following locations:
 - Watch Hill
 - Sailors Haven
 - Barrett Beach
- The following are prohibited at designated swimming areas and at clothing optional beaches from Memorial Day through Labor Day:
 - Surfing
 - Fishing
 - Glass bottles
 - *Glass bottles pose a significant safety hazard on sand beaches. Fishing and surfing are activities that conflict with swimming, and also pose a potential safety risk.*
- Swimming at any non-lifeguarded area is at the visitor's own risk.
- The following areas are posted as clothing optional beaches:

- The ocean beach and adjacent waters of the Lighthouse beach area from the eastern boundary of Robert Moses State Park to approximately 600 feet to the east
 - The ocean beach and adjacent waters from approximately 1800 feet east of the eastern boundary of Robert Moses State Park to approximately 600 feet to the east
 - The ocean beach and adjacent waters from a point approximately 1760 feet west of the last boardwalk west of the Fire Island Wilderness Visitor Center to approximately 2640 feet to the west
 - *Visitors have traditionally recreated on portions of Fire Island in the nude, but this activity is offensive to some members of the public. Specific areas are posted as clothing optional to allow clothing optional recreation without negatively impacting other visitors' experience.*
- Shelters and tents may be used when camping in accordance with park camping regulations. Shelters and tents for day use are subject to the following restrictions:
 - Shelters may only be used on the vegetation-free beaches during daylight hours.
 - Shelters must be temporary, and have no more than three sides (i.e. for a windscreen). Small tents may be erected for the purpose of sun protection, but only when they do not unreasonably impede public access and emergency services movement.
 - No individual barrier, or barrier in combination with others, will exceed twenty-five (25) feet in uninterrupted length. An obstruction-free corridor measuring at least fifteen (15) feet must be maintained between the barriers to ensure free access by all.
 - *The popular use of physical barriers along Fire Island National Seashore to block the wind or provide privacy has led to the construction of large, unnecessary obstacles along portions of the beach front. These barriers can significantly impede public access and emergency services movement along the beach, and limit public enjoyment of the beach by restricting public access. Prohibiting larger barriers allows improved access by the public and by emergency responders.*
 - Metallised nylon balloons ("Mylar balloons") are prohibited on federally-owned National Seashore lands.
 - Kite flying is prohibited in the following areas:
 - The entire area of the William Floyd Estate
 - Areas closed for the protection of colonial and shorebird nesting and rearing activities
 - Designated lifeguarded beaches at Watch Hill, Sailors Haven, and Barrett Beach while lifeguards are on duty
 - The area defined as the western-most dune crossing of the Smith Point Boardwalk west to Long Cove from March 15th through Labor Day
 - The area defined as the Sailors Haven beach between the designated dune crossings from March 15th through Labor Day
 - *Kites have the ability to harm nesting shorebirds. These designated closed areas protect cultural and natural resources, provide for increased visitor safety, and protect threatened and endangered species. Prohibiting kite flying on the William Floyd Estate maintains the integrity of the cultural landscape.*

Waterfowl Hunting

- The area to the north of the Burma Road beginning ½ mile west of the boundary with Smith Point County Park known as Hayhole Point, and ending ½ mile east of Watch Hill known as

Long Cove, is designated for waterfowl hunting. Waterfowl hunting is also allowed in the waters surrounding Sexton, East and West Islands located in the Great South Bay out to 4,000 feet north of Fire Island. A Federal Duck Stamp, New York State hunting license, Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) confirmation number, and a National Park Service waterfowl hunting permit are also required. Hunters must use steel shot only while waterfowl hunting.

36 CFR 1.6 – ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT

(f) The following is a compilation of those activities for which a permit from the Superintendent is required, in addition to those activities already identified in 36CFR:

- Camping on federally owned lands within the boundary of Fire Island National Seashore. For camping regulations and designation of authorized camping zones, see "Camping," §2.10(a).
- Recreational beach vehicle driving on federally owned lands within the boundary of Fire Island National Seashore.
- Operating a motor vehicle on Fire Island between the western boundary of Smith Point County Park and the eastern boundary of Robert Moses State Park, other than an authorized firefighting apparatus or a motor vehicle operated and owned or leased by a duly constituted law enforcement agency having jurisdiction within the Seashore. For additional information, see 36CFR §7.20.
- The scattering of human ashes
- The possession and/ or use of fireworks

II. GENERAL REGULATIONS

36 CFR §2.1 – PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

(a)(4) Gathering of wood within the park area

- The collection of driftwood, flotsam and jetsam may be collected from beaches below the spring high tide drift line.
 - *The collection of driftwood, flotsam and jetsam is determined not to be detrimental to the protection of the beach environment.*

(c)(1-2) Gathering of fruits, nuts, berries, and unoccupied seashells

- The following items may be collected by hand for personal use or consumption, provided that no person exceeds two quarts per day:
 - Bayberry (*Myrica spp.*)
 - Beach plum (*Prunus maritima*)
 - Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)
 - Raspberry (*Rubus spp.*)
 - Blackberry (*Rubus spp.*)
 - Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*)
 - Cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon* or *Vaccinium oxycoccos*)
 - Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* [highbush], *Vaccinium angustogolium* [lowbush])
 - Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*)

- Dewberry (*Rubus spp.*)
- Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
- Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*)
- Grape (*Vitis spp.*)
- Unoccupied Seashells

36CFR §2.2 – WILDLIFE PROTECTION

(b) Hunting and trapping

- Hunting is allowed only in the area so designated in "Waterfowl Hunting" of §1.5 in this compendium, and must be conducted in accordance with applicable state and federal law.

(d) Transportation of wildlife

- The transportation of lawfully taken wildlife through the park is permitted under the following conditions and procedures:
 - The transportation of wildlife must be in accordance with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) rules and regulations
 - Recognized organizations that hold current National Park Service, New York State DEC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and/or National Marine Fisheries Service permits in accordance with the Marine Mammal Act and the Endangered Species Act may transport and possess wildlife within Fire Island National Seashore boundaries.
 - Waterfowl lawfully taken within the boundaries of Fire Island National Seashore may be transported in accordance with a National Park Service hunting permit, a New York State Hunting License, and a Federal Duck Stamp.

36 CFR §2.3 – FISHING

- Fishing is allowed in accordance with state law, and applicable regulations in this compendium.
- Fishing for horseshoe crabs is prohibited within the boundary of Fire Island National Seashore.

36 CFR §2.10(a) – CAMPING AND FOOD STORAGE

- Camping is authorized only in designated campgrounds or specific areas identified in this section. The following areas are designated for camping:
 - Fire Island Wilderness Eastern Zone: From 1000 feet west of Old Inlet to the eastern boundary of Bellport Beach
 - Fire Island Wilderness Western Zone: From 1000 feet west of Bellport Beach to Long Cove
 - Great South Beach Eastern Zone: From 1000 feet west of Old Inlet to the eastern boundary of Bellport Beach between March 15 and Labor Day
 - Great South Beach Western Zone: From 1000 feet west of Bellport Beach to Long Cove between March 15 and Labor Day
 - Watch Hill Campground
- No more than 36 persons total may camp in the Fire Island Wilderness Zones and Great South Beach Zones combined. The following camping limits and regulations apply:

- From Labor Day until March 15 annually in the Fire Island Wilderness Eastern Zone, no more than 12 people may camp per night with a limit of four persons per campsite.
- From Labor Day until March 15 annually in the Fire Island Wilderness Western Zone, no more than 24 people may camp per night with a limit of eight persons per campsite.
- From March 15 until Labor Day annually in the combined Fire Island Wilderness Eastern Zone and the Great South Beach Eastern Zone, no more than 12 people may camp per night, with a limit of four persons per campsite.
- From March 15 to Labor Day annually in the combined Western Wilderness Zone and the Great South Beach Western Zone no more than 24 people may camp per night, with a limit of eight persons per campsite.
- Persons may not camp more than three consecutive days in the Fire Island Wilderness or on the Great South Beach, with a 48-hour break between visits.
- Camping on any dune is prohibited.
- Camping on the beach south of the dune is prohibited from Labor Day until March 15.
- Open fires are prohibited, with the exception of small propane grills.
- All trash and refuse must be carried out by visitors.

- *Wilderness/Backcountry camping use limits were determined based on the Wilderness and Backcountry Guidelines meant to achieve optimal wilderness character. Use limits are established to create an equitable turnover to allow for more visitors to enjoy backcountry camping and to reduce the impact on park resources. Camping on a dune would reduce the integrity of the dune. Open fires in a windy, dry environment put the natural resources and visitors at risk of fire. In order to maintain a primitive camping experience and to protect the natural environment in the backcountry, all trash and refuse must be carried out.*

- Overnight public use limits for camping:
 - Watch Hill Campground: 14 consecutive days with a 48-hour break
 - Wilderness/ Backcountry camping: 3 consecutive days

36CFR §2.11 PICNICKING

- Picnicking is prohibited on the William Floyd Estate except in designated areas surrounding the public parking lot.
 - *The William Floyd Estate has many significant archeological, historic, and natural resources. Limiting visitor use to already-disturbed areas minimizes the impact to these resources, and maintains the cultural landscape.*

36CFR §2.13(a)(1-2) – FIRES

(a)(1) The lighting or maintaining of fires is generally prohibited, except as provided for in the provisions below:

- Charcoal fires are permitted in grills in designated picnic areas or Watch Hill campsites only. Charcoal fires are prohibited on boats within the marinas or on marina boardwalks. All on-board cooking devices, including electric grills, are restricted to the galley.
- Self-contained gas stoves may be used when picnicking or camping on Fire Island.

(a)(2) The following restrictions are in effect for the use of stoves or lanterns:

- When camping in the Fire Island Wilderness or on any Seashore beach in accordance with park camping regulations, only self-contained gas stoves may be used.

(b) All fires and coals must be adequately extinguished using water.

36CFR §2.16(b) – HORSES AND PACK ANIMALS

- Horseback riding and the possession of pack animals are prohibited on National Seashore owned lands within the boundaries of Fire Island National Seashore.

36CFR §2.18(c) – SNOWMOBILES

- The use of snowmobiles is prohibited.

36CFR §2.19(a-b) – WINTER ACTIVITIES

- The Burma Road may be used for cross-country skiing. Some communities may have additional restrictions; visitors are responsible for knowing local area rules within community boundaries.
- The towing of persons on skis, sleds, or similar device by motor vehicle or snowmobile is prohibited.

36CFR §2.21(a) – SMOKING

- Smoking is allowed only under the following conditions:
 - Smoking is prohibited inside all government buildings
 - Smoking is prohibited within 25 feet of the exterior of all government buildings
 - *This restriction is intended to reduce any possible conflict between users and the harmful effects of second-hand smoke and to protect park structures from fire danger or smoke. This prohibition is consistent with Federal law.*

36CFR §2.51(c) – PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES

- The following areas are designated for public assemblies and meetings, and for the sale or distribution of printed matter under §2.52, and require a permit through the Chief Ranger's Office:
 - Adjacent to the Visitor Shelter at the Park's western boundary
 - Smith Point West Parking Lot
 - Patchogue- Watch Hill Ferry Parking Lot south of the terminal building
 - The South parking lot, south of the Park Headquarters Building
 - The William Floyd Estate public parking lot
 - "A" Basin Picnic Area at Watch Hill
 - "east" Marina picnic area in Sailors Haven
 - *Limiting heavy visitor use at large events to specific areas protects natural and cultural resources, and minimizes these events' impact to the public use and enjoyment of the park.*

III. BOATING AND WATER USE ACTIVITIES

36CFR §3.14 – VESSEL REMOVAL

(a)(1) Any grounded vessel must have removal arrangements made by the owner within 72 hours of the initial sighting report. The vessel will be removed in its entirety within seven days of the initial report.

(a)(2) Access to and from the beached vessel will be by a recovery vessel

(a)(3) Vessels shall be removed in the following manner:

- Vessels shall be removed by a tow boat or other similar craft capable of pulling the vessel free.
- Beached vessels determined as unseaworthy may be scrapped for salvage at the discretion of the owner.
- If an unseaworthy vessel is cut up on the beach to facilitate easier removal, the owner is responsible for taking adequate measures to prevent the spill of hazardous materials or the undue destruction of natural resources. The owner is responsible for the removal of ALL debris associated with the vessel. If it is determined by the National Park Service that debris is still on scene after removal, the park may require additional cleanup or charge the owner for the cost of cleanup.

IV. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

36 CFR §4.21(b) – SPEED LIMITS

- The following speed limits are established for Fire Island National Seashore:
 - 20 miles per hour for all designated off road areas
 - The speed of any motor vehicle being operated on Seashore lands shall be reduced to five miles per hour approaching or passing within 100 feet of any person not in a motor vehicle.

36 CFR §4.30 – BICYCLES

(a) Bicycles are not permitted on board walks, in marina areas, or in the Fire Island Wilderness. The following routes have been designated for bicycle use:

- Burma Road through the Lighthouse Tract
- All ocean beaches
- William Floyd Estate roads

(d)(3) Riding a bicycle abreast of another rider is prohibited except on the following routes:

- Burma Road Lighthouse Tract
- All ocean beaches

--END--